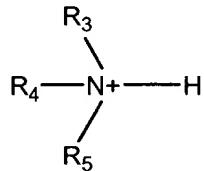


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing scale deposited in a wellbore or in the near wellbore area of a subterranean formation comprising contacting said scale with an effective amount of a fluid comprising an ionic liquid, or mixture of ionic liquids, solvent for said scale, wherein said ionic liquid of the fluid is comprised of cations having the formula



in which R₃, R₄, and R₅ are selected from H, and saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbon containing from 1 to 22 carbons, respectively, provided that R₃, R₄, and R₅ are not simultaneously H, and further provided that the total number of carbon atoms contained by R₃, R₄, and R₅, does not exceed 24.

2.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8claim 1, in which the anions are selected from BF₄⁻; PF₆⁻; SbF₆⁻; CF₃SO₃⁻; AlCl₄⁻; RAlCl₃⁻, wherein R is alkyl containing 1 through 8 carbon atoms; R₂AlCl₂⁻, wherein R is alkyl containing 1 through 8 carbon atoms; CuCl₂⁻; Cu₂Cl₃⁻; Cu₃Cl₄⁻; Al₂Cl₇⁻; Al₃Cl₁₀⁻; NO₃⁻; (CF₃SO₂)₂N⁻; Br⁻; ClO₄⁻; CH₃COO⁻; and BPh₄⁻.

10.-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for removing scale deposited in a wellbore or in the near wellbore area of a subterranean formation comprising contacting said scale with an effective amount of a fluid comprising an ionic liquid, or mixture of ionic liquids, solvent for said scale. ~~The method of claim 1 in which said ionic liquid is trimethylammonium heptachlorodialuminate.~~
38. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 8~~claim 1 in which the ionic liquid comprises triethylamine dialuminum heptachloride.
- 39.-42. (Canceled)
43. (Original) A method for removing scale deposited in a wellbore or near wellbore area of a subterranean formation comprising providing an effective amount of an encapsulated fluid in the wellbore or near wellbore area, and releasing or allowing the fluid to be released in the wellbore or near wellbore area, the fluid comprising an ionic liquid, a mixture of ionic liquids, or precursors of an ionic fluid.
44. (Original) The method of claim 43 in which an ionic liquid of the fluid comprises nitrogen-containing cations, and anions of a Lewis acid or of a non-Lewis acid.
45. (Original) A method of dissolving BaSO₄ scale comprising contacting the BaSO₄ scale with a fluid comprising an ionic liquid or mixture of ionic liquids.
46. (Canceled)